

William Brady and Thomas Williamson to Andrew Jackson, September 20, 1823, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

WILLIAM BRADY AND THOMAS WILLIAMSON TO JACKSON.

Murfreesboro', September 20, 1823.

Sir, It would be gratifying to many of your friends at this place to see you amongst us. There is much commotion here among certain persons about the Senatorial election. Plans and schemes of operation by foreigners not of the Legislature, to effect the election of thier choice, To thwart them, will be our especial care; tho' thier case is skilfully organized. That *Grundy* is opposed to the best wishes of Tennessee is but too apparent; his manuvering with the enemy alone; thier leading orator on the floor of the Legislature—and lately the introducer of a string of reslotion, going to excuse our representatives in Congress from a participation in recommending yourself to the people of the U. S. The direct object of this proceeding could not be misunderstood; most evidently to promote the interest of *Williams* , and draw the attention of the Legislature from an enquiry into the course he would pursue with regard to yourself should he be ultimately elected. As the representatives of the people, as well as in our individual character, we hold ourselves bound to give no vote on this subject, but which shall accord with the unanimous consent heretofore expressed by the people of Tennessee. On this subject we hold it a maxim not to be departed from; that the representative obey the voice of his constituents on all subjects when fully and fairly expressed. Public opinion on no subject has in our opinions ever been so generally acquiesed in as that you are the choice of Tennessee to be our next President. We can answer for our constituents and for our own feelings and wishes on this all important matter. And further *Sir* we have too long known your high claims upon this republic, to give our support to a man, and place him in the highest station in the gift

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of Tennessee, who will not readily and openly express her sentiments. Believing as we do that attempts have been made by certain individuals high in trust from Tennessee, to have it whispered at Washington City, that you were not seriously talked of as our next president, requires that we should well weigh the character and Conduct of the aspirants now before us, before we surrender out of our hands this great constitutional trust.

We do not expect that you would if here take an active or open part or stand in this election; but we know that your presence would disperse some of the small atoms now floating in our atmosphere to the obstruction of the formation of correct opinions. Much is said that *Williams* is not your enemy, on the contrary your friend. That if difficulties has heretofore existed between *you*, it has recently been removed, and therefore would be your supporter at the city. In matters of election we well know from experience, that a luke warm supporter, will do more mischief than an open enemy, and that you shall ever receive the hearty and open support of this *man* is what we cannot believe

As we have been your companions in arms, we are your supporters here—accept our hearty wishes for your good health and ultimate success¹

¹ The following extract from a letter from B. Coleman to Gen. John Coffee, Oct. 24, 1823 (Tenn. Hist. Soc.), throws light on the election of Jackson to the Senate in 1823: “You have no doubt heard of the election of *Old Hickory* to the senate of the United States. And *you* would be surprised at the *bare* majority of *ten*, if you did not know, or was not advised of facts. You will recollect that Williams came forward, and that opposed to him as candidates, was P. M. Miller and Mr. Ray [Rhea]. You will recollect that ever since the last session Williams' friends and party have been marshalling all their strength and that nothing has been left undone which wisdom or strategem could effect. You will recollect that since the present members have been elected Williams, in person, has visited most of them at their own houses and extracted from many a pledge to vote for him. You will recollect too, that many believing that Miller only was to come up in opposition to Williams, was easily deluded and deceived and gave a pledge to Williams. You will also learn that

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Miller and Ray came forward before the people and the legislature and were the only known persons, except Williams, who would serve. Under all these circumstances it was an easy matter for Williams and his friends to make a favorable impression on most of the members, and to extract from many a solemn pledge to support him. In addition to all this Jackson's name was brought forward only a day or two before the election, and without his entire consent to serve. Some of his best and warmest friends, taking all circumstances into view, thought that we were risking too much. No person but *Jackson* could have broken down such a combination. Many who voted against him were all alive to his election, but were tied down and obliged to give a vote against him."